

TONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING: Monday 16/06/2025, held at the Old School Hall, Poyle Road, Tongham at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr S Habgood (Chair)	Cllr M Murray	Cllr E Hall	Cllr P Buckley
Cllr L Lowdon	Clerk K Brennan	Cllr M Furniss SCC	Cllr S Barker GBC
S Wyeth-Price GBC Ash South	Mr D Shaw GBC Ash South	Mrs S Cox	Mr T Boxall
Mr D Evans	Reverend C Holt		

1. Chairman's announcements and apologies for absence: Cllr L Oakley, Cllr S Gray
2. The minutes from the meeting on 19/05/2025 were approved. Proposed M. Murray, Seconded L. Lowdon. Signed by Cllr S Habgood.
3. Code of conduct: disclosure of interest: None.
4. Register of Interests: No change.

5. Matters arising from May meeting:

- Allotments: Thanks to S. Gray for ensuring all rents have been received
- Allotments: Thanks P. Buckley for clearing vegetation from Water meter area
- Skip: Now full and requires removal and replacement
- Moors Land: Clarified as a charity, not a trust — discussion on future use ongoing
- Trees at Tongham Meadows, survey required to cut back trees; land responsibility shared between TPC, SCC & GBC a joint approach is required.
- Play Area: Completion date 16/6/25; waiting on final inspection by contractor before opening.
- Parking on Poyle Road): Parking and yellow lines under review; Application to GBC by September for help from SCC or GBC.

6. County and Borough matters:

Taylor Wimpey Development: Pre-application started. Site and boundaries confirmed and meeting to be arranged with TPC, Borough Council, and Taylor Wimpey.

MacDonalds Application: Update requested by GBC.

Local Council Devolution plan not yet provided.

Cllr Furniss (SCC) informed the meeting that the application for a parking review in Poyle Road has been submitted.

7. **Public Adjournment:**

Cllr David Shaw (GBC Ash South) raised the issue of anti-social behaviour and suggested the councils work together to combat this, by recording all incidents and any CCTV footage from the shops area and and Community Centre to be reviewed, also the use of Social Media to raise awareness of issues.

8. **Reports from working groups:**

a) **Finance, Policy and Administration:**

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) completed and ready to be submitted to Auditors. Checked at meeting and signed by S. Habgood

Notice of Public Rights poster to be displayed on Notice Boards and available on the website from 18th June until 1st August.

The Council's Internal Audit was completed and signed by Mulberry Services.

FNST May: Circulated to the meeting and signed by Cllr S. Hobgood

Section 106: Suggestions invited for use of reserve fund

Section 137: 3 requests pending although only 1 received by date of meeting, TCA Summer Fair requested a donation of £350, for the hire of a bouncy castle, this was agreed.

The Tongham Bowling Club to request a grant of £500 and 137 Application awaited.

Tongham Woods Group(TWIG) to request a donation circa £600, but 137 application not yet received.

Accounting Software: The council agreed to switch the accounts to the Xero system

Allotments: Fees all received. Extra water supply quote in process

Tongham Moors Report:

The Tongham Moors are now the responsibility of the Parish Council and there have been 2 inspections of the area by the councillors. The area is now very overgrown, and ideas are required for the future use of the area; one suggestion has been to create a wildflower meadow.

Finances for the Moors is now included in the monthly Council financial statements.

The closing balance for the Moors account as at 30/04/2025 stood at £8381.59

b) **PLANNING:**

All Applications received from GBC; no issues raised

c) LIGHTING AND GENERAL PURPOSE:

Hanging flower baskets in place and planters at shops

Tongham Care Group (TCG) requested to purchase the Planter and arrange the maintenance of this but it was agreed by the council to include this in the current agreement with Ash Parish Council and the Clerk to inform TCG of this decision.

Allotments - Plot 74 to be reallocated (currently unused)

Cllr Buckley suggested that it may be cheaper if the allotment waste was segregated and collected by grab lorry. Costs to be compared.

Cllr Buckley advised that guidance will be needed to help shape Council's decision on the Neighbourhood Plan for protecting land in village from development, a meeting to be arranged with Michael Moriarty (Ash Parish Council) for policy advice.

9. Any Other Business: Reverend Claire Holt raised a point regarding the village Armistice Day, to consider sharing the service with a lay person on alternate years, as she now has 2 parishes to cover.
10. Execution of documents: to consider if necessary passing the following resolution: "That the Council do seal in the manner prescribed by law, or the clerk or member as appropriate, do sign on behalf of the Council any Order, Deeds or Documents, required to give effect to any of the matters and recommendations contained in the reports as presented to, and approved by, the Council on 19th May 2025".
Proposed: Cllr Lowdon, Seconded: Cllr Gray.

Signed:

L P Oakley, Chair of meeting, Date: 21st July 2025.

Actions:

Tongham Meadows / Moors – tree safety issue – Cllr Habgood & Cllr Oakley

Allotment skip removal and replacement – Parish Clerk

Allotment extra water supply – Cllr Buckley & Parish Clerk

Anti-social behaviour liaison with Ash PC – all councillors

Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Hall & Cllr Buckley.